

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07173 220823Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 230800Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5313

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 7173

NODIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR IS EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MILITARY MOVEMENT

REF: STATE 171272; CAIRO 7172

1. HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FAHMY THIS MORNING TO SAY WE HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING ALLEGED EGYPTIAN TROOP CROSSINGS AND TANK CONCENTRATIONS WHICH CONCERNS US. (I DID NOT RPT NOT ATTRIBUTE INFORMATION TO ISRAELI SOURCES. NOR DID I MENTION THE FLOTILLA.) I ASKED IF HE COULD CLARIFY THE SITUATION.

2. FAHMY IMMEDIATELY DENIED THAT THIS WAS SO. HE RECALLED SOMEONE FROM THE EMBASSY HAS ASKED GAMASY LAST WEEK ABOUT A SIMILAR REPORT. GAMASY HAD DENIED IT. AS WE KNEW, EGYPTIAN MILITARY IS IN HIGH STATE OF DEFENSIVE ALERT AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE AGAINST POSSIBLE ISRAELI PREEMPTIVE STRIKE IN PRESENT TENSE SITUATION. HE THOUGHT MILITARY COMMANDERS MIGHT BE REDEPLOYING SOME OF THEIR TROOPS AS PART OF THIS POSTURE. HE WISHED TO ASSURE US, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPT HAS NO AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS AND WILL HONOR THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

3. IN FURTHER EXPLANATION OF EGYPTIAN DEFENSIVE ALERT,

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FAHMY CLAIMED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE SIX BRIGADES AND

TWO RESERVE BRIGADES IN THE EASTERN SINAI. EGYPTIAN MILITARY CONSIDERS THESE ISRAELI FORCES AS HIGHLY MOBILE AND ASSUMES ISRAELIS WOULD MOST LIKELY ATTACK ALONG THE COASTAL AND/OR ISMAILIA ROADS IF ISRAELIS DO UNDER-TAKE A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE. HENCE, PRECAUTIONARY TROOP REDEPLOYMENT. FAHMY SCOFFED AT SUGGESION LARGE NUMBER OF EGYPTIAN INFANTRY TROOPS HAVE CROSSED TO EASTERN SIDE OF THE CANAL AND DENIED THIS WAS SO.

4. AS PROCEDURAL MATTER, IN LIGHT PARA 2 REFTTEL, ASSUME CAIRO ALSO AUTHORIZED REPEAT PERTINENT MESSAGE DIRECTLY TO TEL AVIV.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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